

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, recent executive actions have resulted in confusion, demonstrations, and late-night court rulings. Many executive orders have been announced with little notice, and the American people have had to wait hours afterwards to see the text.

Federal agencies have also been blindsided by these orders. The Secretary of Homeland Security found out about the President's immigration orders through cable news. In some cases, the President himself has been uncertain of what his executive orders contain.

Sir, we need transparency today. Congress has a responsibility to eliminate this confusion and make sure that executive actions are clear and transparent to all Americans.

That is why I am introducing the Executive Order Transparency Act. This one-page bill requires that all executive orders be posted on the White House website 72 hours before each is signed. This simple bill is an investment in a working government, and I urge all my colleagues to join me.

THE MILITARY NEEDS MORE ENLISTED MEN AND WOMEN NOT MORE OFFICERS

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in Scott Berg's biography on Woodrow Wilson, it says that, in World War I, we had one officer for every 30 enlisted men.

President Eisenhower once said we had too many officers when we had one officer for every nine enlisted. Now we have one officer for every 4½ to 5 enlisted. We are almost overrun with retired admirals and generals. This is very expensive.

President Trump wants to greatly expand the numbers in our Armed Forces. If we do, what we need is more enlisted men and women, not more officers.

I started in the Army as enlisted and left as a captain, but we simply can't afford as many officers as we have today. We now have 475,000 retired officers drawing military pensions and 1,500,000 enlisted retirees. These two million military retirees, and those near retirement, should be demanding more fiscal conservatism by the Pentagon, or, in the very near future, we will not be able to pay our military pensions with money that will buy very much.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 794, which will

reauthorize the Election Assistance Commission until 2022, provide payments to the States to upgrade the security of voter registration databases, and require an assessment of each State's voting systems.

Foreign hackers targeted the voter registration databases in more than 20 States in 2016. Candidate Trump encouraged hackers to target his opponent. He won the election and continues to cozy up to Russia.

And now, House Republicans are moving to eliminate the EAC, a key force in combating foreign cybersecurity attacks against our democracy.

"What do you have to lose?" candidate Trump asked. Try free and fair elections, Mr. Speaker.

I urge my Republic colleagues to put country before party and stand up for American democracy. Stop trying to suppress minority voters. Support an independent commission to investigate Russian meddling in our election.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF LITTLE RIVER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone for Little River County, Arkansas. On March 5, the county will celebrate its 150th birthday.

According to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, Little River County came into existence following an act of the Arkansas General Assembly, officially separating from Hempstead and Sevier Counties in 1867.

During its century and a half, the citizens of Little River County have shown resilience and innovation as they weathered the Great Depression, sent its men to fight in World War II, and grew the local economy in the years since. In recent years, Little River County has withstood severe flooding, but they have come back strong and resilient.

Little River County is blessed with natural resources, including forestry, agriculture, and minerals that all provide the inputs for manufacturing jobs that play a big role in the local economy, and will continue to do so in Little River's next 150 years.

I am proud to call Little River County part of the Fourth Congressional District, and I congratulate its citizens on 150 years of progress.

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RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL FLYNN

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, Michael Flynn's resignation does not close the book on the administration's coziness

with Russia. It confirms the urgent need for a bipartisan investigation of Russia's ties to the Trump administration and its ongoing influence. It confirms the urgent need for the President to release his tax returns so the American people can see any business ties that the President has to Russia.

We need a full, independent inquiry into not just the actions of Michael Flynn in one conversation with the Vice President, but the ongoing connections between the administration and Russia, because the one thing we know for sure is it doesn't stop there. President Trump's fawning praise of Putin and the previous resignation of other aides over their Russian ties made it clear that this is a problem that goes beyond General Flynn.

What we have learned over the past 24 hours is that colluding with a foreign government or lying to the Vice President and others is not what brought Flynn down. It seems that it was only the disclosure of those lies that made it untenable for Flynn to remain. The White House was apparently okay with everything until the American people found out.

We need to find out what else the White House and President Trump doesn't want us to know about their connection to the foreign power that interfered with our election, and we need to start today.

IT IS THE MEDIA'S CHOICE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the liberal national media have two choices.

First, they can continue their dislike—some would call it hatred—of President Trump that results in severely slanted coverage. This is the road to self-destruction. The media's credibility has hit a record low, and the American people soon will stop looking to them for news.

Or, second, the liberal national media can start covering President Trump objectively. This means not portraying his actions in the worst possible light but sometimes giving President Trump the benefit of the doubt. It means giving his side of the story. It means, most of all, recognizing that President Trump represents the legitimate hopes and fears of millions of Americans.

If the liberal national media continue to treat President Trump unlike they would a Democrat, the public will grow tired of the double standard.

The American people have an innate sense of fairness, which the media should not ignore. For their own sake and for the sake of our democracy, the media should change their ways.

REPEAL WITHOUT REPLACEMENT WOULD BE DEVASTATING

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are moving ahead with the repeal of ObamaCare—but years later, after all the talk, they still have no replacement. Six weeks into control of this Congress and of this government—all branches—there is no plan.

From today's Politico, it reads: "House conservatives . . . are plotting a major push to repeal the law immediately without simultaneously approving an alternative."

The consequences of Republican repeal without replacement are devastating: 30 million Americans would lose health coverage. People could be kicked off their coverage. They would not be allowed coverage if they have a preexisting condition. Young people could be kicked off their parents' plans.

In recent weeks, Republicans have been bombarded with messages from their constituents sending a clear message that the Affordable Care Act repeal would be devastating to their family. It would be devastating to real people like Jia Ireland, my constituent, who, before ACA, had no health insurance. Because of Medicaid expansion, she and 600,000 other Michiganders have coverage.

We cannot lose access to health care in this country. We ought not do that.

PRESIDENT TRUMP MUST RELEASE HIS INCOME TAX RETURNS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I had a town hall in Memphis on Saturday. We had over 1,000 people there, and over 10,000 people live streamed on Facebook. Many were concerned about Russia's influence with this administration.

Something smells. It would be like a vegan going and talking about how much they were supporting the Beef and Dairy Council, or that Chick-fil-A cow going up and saying: Eat more chicken.

There is something else to it. There is an ulterior motive.

This President's love affair with Russia, his constant support for Russia and Putin—one of the most villainous leaders on the face of this Earth—spells a problem. We need to get to the bottom of it, and one way we will find out is through his taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to release his income taxes to the American people. It is so important to us having confidence in his administration and to our government's ability to withstand an evil power, as Ronald Reagan called them.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 66, DISAPPROVING RULE SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO SAVINGS ARRANGEMENTS BY STATES FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 67, DISAPPROVING RULE SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO SAVINGS ARRANGEMENTS BY QUALIFIED STATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 116 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 116

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House any joint resolution specified in section 2 of this resolution. All points of order against consideration of each such joint resolution are waived. Each such joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in each such joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on each such joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The joint resolutions referred to in the first section of this resolution are as follows:

(a) The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees.

(b) The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 67) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 116 provides for consideration of two joint resolutions designed to protect working families by blocking harmful regulations through the Congressional Review Act process.

In 1974, Congress passed and President Gerald Ford signed the Employee

Retirement Income Security Act, or ERISA. This legislation, which has broad and bipartisan support, sets standards for employer-provided retirement plans to protect the workers of the United States of America. This regulatory framework for employer-provided retirement plans has been largely successful at helping working families save for retirement over the last 40 years.

Unfortunately, in the waning days of his administration, President Obama put forward regulations to uproot this system that has worked for decades. The Obama administration's rules would pave the way for government-run IRAs—for bureaucrat-run IRAs—managed by States and certain municipalities. Employees in several States would be forced to automatically enroll in these government- and bureaucrat-run IRAs that are not subject to the important protections established by ERISA.

In other words, in the waning days of the Obama administration, they sought to take back from workers the protections that were given to them when ERISA was passed 40 years ago. Let me say that again. Workers' ERISA protections will be out the window for those people in these government- and bureaucrat-run plans.

These regulations remove important protections for American workers as they relate to their retirement plans. American consumers would be directly hurt by this regulation were it to go forward.

Just as bad, workers would have less control over their retirement savings. Withdrawals or roll-over investments to a private-sector account could be restricted and even penalized.

These regulations would create disincentives for small businesses to offer their retirement plans and invest in their employees' retirement, resulting in fewer options for workers. Instead, smaller employers will likely simply shift their employees on to these government- and bureaucrat-run plans.

These regulations could also create a confusing patchwork of rules that vary State to State or, even worse, city to city. This confusion would directly hurt the consumer.

Another concern with pushing people on to government- and bureaucrat-run retirement plans is that taxpayers would end up footing the bill. We have seen how poorly managed many State and city pension plans have been all over this country. If these government-run IRAs are also mismanaged, taxpayers may be asked to pay and to honor the government's promises.

Ultimately, these regulations are simply another attempt to exert control over the American people with a "government knows best" policy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not children that need direction from their parents. They should not be forced by the heavy hand of the government and faceless bureaucrats to obtain certain plans the government